

Lowell Public Schools

*Preparing for School Reporting -
Enrollment Update*





AGENDA

1. Enrollment year over year comparison
2. School reporting process
3. Current students awaiting placement
4. Afghan evacuees student placement planning
5. Overall next steps
6. Questions for School Committee consideration



Enrollment Year Over Year Comparison

Each year, the district presents its first snapshot of school enrollment to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in October. Below are the numbers of students enrolled in October for the previous four years.

2017-18: 14,436

2018-19: 14,548

2019-20: 14,434

2020-21: 14,023

2021-22 forecast: 14,003*

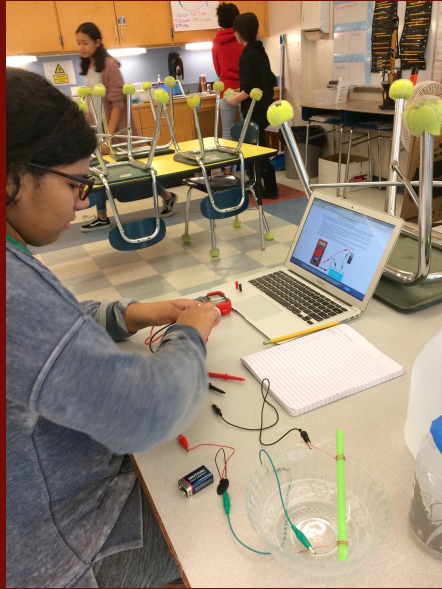
Students continue to enroll throughout the year and approximately 255 students have submitted an application for enrollment in LPS since the start of the school year (August 31 to September 22). Of those 255, we estimate that approximately 80 of those students will be enrolled by October 1.**

We also anticipate an influx of students to arrive after October 1 who are Afghan evacuees.

*This data is as of 9/22 and includes the Engagement Center.

**Pending all student information/documentation is approved and complete, parent receives an assignment letter, AND pulled into the schools by 10/1.





School Reporting Process

The Office of Performance Management is responsible for reporting and verifying student enrollment information to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) three times per year. The October data collection window is the most important data collection window, as this determines the foundational funding for the district.

The Student Management Information System (Aspen) data flows nightly into the DESE reporting system. The data is then verified and validated at the DESE side and error reports are populated into the district's security portal.

The Office of Performance Management looks at these verification report errors daily, deciphers which offices within the district are responsible for the input of the information, and communicates with them regarding how to correct the error.

Once all errors have been cleared, the Office of Performance Management can certify the student enrollment data for that data collection period.



Current Students Awaiting Placement

As September 23, there are 394 total students are active in FRC. This number fluctuates daily as students are assigned.

Pending Enrollment Requirement	Number of Students As of Thursday, 9/23/21
Immunization verification only	76
English Language Testing only	9
Both Immunization and EL Testing	65
Student Records (high school)	10
No Documents	31
PreK + EC	100
Other	15
Assignment Pending	50/37



LOWELL

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Current Policy

File: JHD - EXCLUSIONS AND EXEMPTIONS FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Denial of Admission

Denial of admission means the withholding of the privilege of enrolling in a school of the District.

The following shall be the grounds for denial of admission to school or diversion to an appropriate alternative program:

- Graduation from the twelfth grade of any school or receipt of any document evidencing completion of the equivalent of a secondary curriculum;
- Failure to meet the requirements of age, by a student who has reached the age of six years at a time after the beginning of the school year, as fixed by the school committee as provided in Massachusetts General Laws;
- Having been expelled during the same school year from this district or any district in the Commonwealth;
- Not being a resident of the District and the District has opted not to participate in the School Choice Law;
- Failure to comply with the provisions of the Massachusetts School Entry Immunization Law.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [71:37H](#); [76:12](#); [76:12A](#); [76:12B](#)



Planning to Receive Students Who are Afghan Evacuees

- LPS was informed by the International Institute of New England (IINE) that approximately 200 Afghan evacuees are planning to be resettled in Massachusetts.
- IINE anticipates receiving assurances of Afghan evacuees any day now. Upon receiving an assurance - which is a notice from the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) that an evacuee has been approved for resettlement - evacuees will begin arriving one week to ten days later.
- The resettlement window is anticipated to be approximately 5 months and of the evacuees with families, the average family is estimated to be 4 people per family.
- We are awaiting information relating to how many of these evacuees may be school-aged children who will be resettled in Lowell.
- Typically, this information will be included in the assurance notification from USCRI.



Planning to Receive Students Who are Afghan Evacuees

- Students and families from Afghanistan have enrolled in the Lowell Public Schools over the past couple of years.
- LPS currently has 35 students in our school community who have identified Dari/Pashto as their home language.
- Over 90% of these students have established residences in Zone 2 and are attending schools throughout the zone.
- LPS is planning a family listening session next week with current Afghan families to learn from them ways we can prepare to support the incoming students and families.





Next Steps

- Work with families to ensure applications and document submissions are complete in order to expedite student placement.
- Track new applicants on a weekly basis to ensure expedited student placement.
- Work with the health department to ensure students' vaccinations are read and families are counseled regarding options for meeting immunization requirements.
- Meet with current Afghan families to learn about ways we can better support incoming students and families who resettle in Lowell.



Questions Needing School Committee Guidance

- 1) What type of updates on the October count and student placement would be helpful for the committee?
- 2) What type of updates would be helpful for the committee as the Afghan evacuee assignment process evolves?
- 3) What types of key performance indicators would be helpful for the SC to monitor as relates to enrollment and student placement?

